

BRIDGER TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES FOR BUDGET HEARING & REGULAR MEETING JULY 9, 2013

The initial budget hearing was held at 6:30 PM at Bridger Town Hall. A discussion was held over the end of the year finances. The fund balances look very good, with none being in deficit cash position. The General Fund has over \$100,000 in the fund balance and has not been in that status for several years. A combination of debt payoff, and approval of swimming pool levy, has helped restore the General Fund cash reserve. The Sewer and Garbage Funds will be paying back the General Fund for the inter-fund loan for the next 9 years; this loan to the Sewer and Garbage Funds brought the cash fund balances back into the black. There was also discussion about the increase of 1% to PERS by the employees and their request for a raise.

The July 9, 2013 Meeting of the Bridger Town Council was brought to order by Mayor Scott DeRudder at 7:00 PM. Council members present were George Wilm, Eugene Sticka, Gerry Roth and Randy Novakovich. Others present were: Hope Freeman Town Attorney, Katie McNeeley, Betty Scheetz, Gary Jacobson, Krystal Zentner, Kirstin Sweet, Greg Lukasik Great West Engineer, Steve Shupak, Polly Lehman, Margi McClurg, Annette & Rich Anderson, Les Roark, Codi Peters, Jerry Keller, Tim Goldsberry Public Works Director, Mike Buechler Police Chief and Deanna Hay Town Clerk.

Clerk Deanna Hay read the minutes of the previous meeting and also read the minutes of the Special Meeting June 6, 2013. Randy Novakovich moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting June 4, 2013 and the special meeting minutes June 6, 2013. George Wilm seconded and the vote was George W-yes, Eugene S-yes, Gerry R-yes, and Randy N-yes. Motion carried.

The Claims were the next item on the agenda. Eugene Sticka moved to approve the claims. Gerry Roth seconded and the vote was George W-yes, Eugene S-yes, Gerry R-yes, and Randy N-yes. Motion carried.

There were no committee reports.

There were no citizen advisory reports.

During public comment Margi McClurg reported on neighborhood watch. No money is involved, it is all about volunteers. The speakers that have come to talk to the Neighborhood Watch made it apparent that communities are changing and people have to be cognizant. Neighborhood watch participants were very supportive of hiring Codi Peters as the second officer as they feel Bridger needs the extra law enforcement. The Council stated they will be taking this into consideration during the budget process.

The next item on the agenda was the Youth Rodeo insurance. The Town has spent 61% of the rodeo budget this year. The Council had questions about paying for the Rodeo insurance as they do not pay for other events. Eugene Sticka moved to pay \$259.00 for the rodeo insurance. Randy Novakovich seconded and the vote was George W-yes, Eugene S-yes, Gerry R-yes, and Randy N-yes. Motion carried.

Greg Lukaik Engineer from Great West Engineering was present to report on the Family Dollar Store development. Annexation into the Town limits will be done. A sewer grinder pump will need to be installed and a 2" service line will be installed to return sewer water. The Maverick has a return water line that will have to be moved so the new building is not built over the top of it. The Town's alley is another consideration.

County Dispatch was the next item on the agenda. The County was subsidizing different amounts. The Town of Bridger dispatch will cost \$5800 this coming year. With the move to Laurel, the cost will continue to go up. Gerry Roth will be looking into the 911 move to Laurel.

The next item on the agenda was the Peter Muth donation to the Town. The Muth family donated \$10,000 to the Town and the Council needs to decide what to do with the money. A suggestion box might be an idea. The Clerk suggested obtaining leather bound books for the Town's minutes to help preserve the Town's history. The Town needs to recognize the family donation in whatever is decided upon.

The next item on the agenda was the election by mail or precinct. George Wilm moved to have a precinct election. Eugene Sticka seconded and the vote was George W-yes, Eugene S-yes, Gerry R-yes, and Randy N-yes. Motion carried.

Zoning applications were the next agenda item. A zoning application from Steve Shupak for either 2 modular homes or trailer houses or a house was read for 116 E Broadway and B Street. The lots have been resurveyed. There was concern as to what size the trailers are. The Town code has to be followed. Eugene Sticka moved to

approve the zoning application for Steve Shupak with the restriction that a plan be brought to the Council before the August meeting and construction starts. The construction will be void if this is not done. George Wilm seconded and the vote was George W-yes, Eugene S-yes, Gerry R-yes, and Randy N-yes. Motion carried.

A zoning application for 4X4 post enclosed 3 sided porch and a 4X4 post pole barn storage shed at 108 B Street for an approximate cost of \$1000 was read for Ryan Malnaa. George Wilm moved as long as all building codes are followed the zoning application would be approved. Gerry Roth seconded and the vote was George W-yes, Eugene S-yes, Gerry R-yes, and Randy N-yes. Motion carried.

The Town Policy Resolution was the next item on the agenda. Town Attorney Hope Freeman removed the Police personnel policy from Town Policy and made changes that were presently not lawful. Gerry Roth moved to table the Town Policy updates. Randy Novakovich seconded and the vote was George W-yes, Eugene S-yes, Gerry R-yes, and Randy N-yes. Motion carried.

Town Attorney Hope Freeman explained that in discussing Special Events with MMIA the Town's liability insurance carrier; special events call for insurance, and a uniform way to use the parks, Open alcohol waivers, and security. Fireworks and rodeos are not covered. Some communities have a waiver. When you have alcohol it can cause problems and security is needed in those cases.

Under public comment several residents attending the meeting were not happy with the letter that had been sent to the Jim Bridger Days committee asking for payment for security for Jim Bridger Days. They felt that they had no warning and a "new policy" had not yet been approved by the Town, as stated in the letter. Mayor Scott DeRudder felt he should apologize for not attending all the Jim Bridger Days committee meetings. The Mayor had reported to the Committee that the Town would need funding to help with extra security for the event. Jim Bridger Days is a special event and it will be included in the revised policy. Having enough law enforcement is important to the community and it was stressed that this would be a good time to hire Codi Peters' full time.

Town Attorney Hope Freeman reported she will be dealing with the annexation issue.

Tim Goldsberry Public Works Director reported that the pool is running good. The streets are being patched. The weed letters have been sent out. Water service to Doug VanValkenburgh property is out of compliance. Town Attorney Hope Freeman will write a letter.

Town Clerk Deanna Hay had nothing to report.

Police Chief Mike Buechler reported the Tractor Pull was good. Security for Jim Bridger Days has been scheduled. Chief Buechler congratulated Codi Peters for her graduation from the Law Enforcement Academy. The Council wants dogs that are not tagged to be ticketed.

Gerry Roth moved to accept the claim for Town Attorney Hope Freeman that was to be included in the claim approval, but would be paid for in July for her legal retainer. Eugene Sticka seconded and the vote was George W-yes, Eugene S-yes, Gerry R-yes, and Randy N-yes. Motion carried.

Gerry Roth moved to adjourn at 9:29 PM.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Town Clerk